

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 (ISO) W
-----029782 140305Z /23

R 131340Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8280
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13475

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG US IS
SUBJ: GOE OFFICIAL'S PRIVATE VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS IN PEACE PROCESS

REF: CAIRO 13474

1. IN CONVERSATION AUGUST 13 WITH POLCOUNS, FAHMY
AIDE AMRE MOUSSA, WHO SAT IN ON JOINT GOE-PALESTINIAN
COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 12 (REFTEL), MADE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS OF INTEREST REGARDING LIKELY NEXT STEPS AND
HIS CONCERNS:

2. PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242. MOUSSA SAID US MAY THINK
IT HAS MADE IT EASY FOR PLO TO ACCEPT 242 BY STATING THAT
PLO COULD ADD RESERVATIONS AND THAT IT NOT NECESSARY
TO CHANGE PLO CHARTER. IF FACT, ACCEPTANCE OF 242 IS
A "VERY MAJOR STEP" FOR PLO BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT ONLY
MEAN ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL BEHIND SECURE AND RECOGNIZED
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BOUNDARIES BUT WOULD GIVE PLO ENDORSEMENT TO COMPRE-
HENSIVE SETTLEMENT. THIS IS DANGEROUS STEP FOR PLO TO
TAKE, IN THEIR OWN EYES, BECAUSE RETICENCE OF ARAB STATES
LIKE SYRIA ON 242 HAS TO LARGE EXTENT BEEN RESULT OF PLO
TOTAL OPPOSITION TO 242.

3. GOE IS WORKING HARD ON PLO TO ACCEPT CARTER'S OFFER

ON 242 AND MOUSSA IS CONFIDENT THAT SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IS DOING SAME. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE PLO CONCERN, PALESTINIANS ARE ASKING WHAT CONCRETE BENEFITS THEY WILL RECEIVE OTHER THAN OPENING OF CONVERSATIONS WITH USG; THEY ARE ASKING WILL THEY GET THEIR STATE? MOUSSA DID NOT REVEAL ARGUMENTS BEING USED WITH PLO BEYOND DESIRABILITY OF DIALOGUE AND SPLIT IT WOULD CAUSE BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL; HOWEVER, INFERENCE WAS THAT GOE ADMITTING IT WOULD REQUIRE AN ACT OF FAITH IN PRESIDENT CARTER I.E. THAT HE WILL HAVE THE DETERMINATION AND ABILITY TO FULFILL HIS ALREADY STATED POSITION THAT PALESTINIANS SHOULD HAVE HOMELAND OR ENTITY.

4. WHO DECIDES FOR PLO. MOUSSA BELIEVES THAT MOST LIKELY COURSE OF ACTION BY PLO WILL BE FOR PALESTINIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL TO MEET LATER THIS MONTH AND ENDORSE SOME FORM OF ACCEPTANCE US OFFER ON 242. FOLLOWING THIS PLO EXCOMM WOULD ACCEPT IT. HOWEVER, HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF PLO ALSO FINDS IT NECESSARY TO CALL FOR MEETING OF PNC. HE BELIEVES IT IS GOING TO TAKE PLO SOME TIME TO TAKE DECISION. AT THIS TIME, HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT DECISION WILL BE POSITIVE ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT IN EXACT FORM THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SUGGESTED. ARAFAT IS STILL EXPECTED IN CAIRO TODAY OR TOMORROW.

5. EGYPTIAN REEVALUATION. MOUSSA SAID HE HAD
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BEEN CONFUSED BY PRESIDENT SADAT'S USE OF TERM "RE-EVALUATION" OF SITUATION IN HIS FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS LEADERSHIP GROUPS. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES THAT PURPOSE OF MEETINGS IS TO FULLY EXPLAIN SITUATION AND BASIS FOR GOE ENCOURAGEMENT 8;"SOLE REASON FOR WHICH IS US FIRMNESS IN FACE OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE"). MOUSSA SAID GOE BELIEVES VANCE VISIT WAS POSITIVE, BUT MAJORITY OF EGYPTIANS WERE DISAPPOINTED BY LACK OF CONCRETE RESULTS. HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT SADAT RECOGNIZED THIS AND FELT THERE WAS NEED FOR DIALOGUE WITH KEY GROUPS TO INSURE CONTINUING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR GOE POSITION.

6. COORDINATION BEFORE NEW YORK. MOUSSA CONFIRMED WHAT PRESS HAD SAID THAT NEXT COORDINATING STEP LIKELY TO BE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AT REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 3. FOLLOWING THIS THERE MAY BE FONMIN MEETING OF CONFRONTATION STATES. NOTHING HAS YET BEEN DECIDED ON MINI-SUMMIT OF CONFRONTATION STATES PLUS SAUDIS. WHETHER OR NOT ARAFAT WOULD GO TO NEW YORK WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT PLO DECIDED BETWEEN NOW AND THEN. MOUSSA THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT "FONMIN" QADDUMI

WOULD GO TO NEW YORK FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7. COMMENT: COMBINATION OF PRESS TREATMENT AND PRIVATE COMMENTS ON OUTCOME OF VANCE VISIT INDICATE THAT, WHILE PUBLIC DISAPPOINTED, GOE SINCERELY BELIEVES VISIT WAS POSITIVE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: (A) ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE" NOW OUT IN OPEN FOR ALL WORLD TO SEE; (B) U.S. POSITIONS BECOMING CLEAR AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, U.S. FACING UP TO ISRAELIS; (C) PROSPECT OF USG-PLO DIALOGUE; AND (D) ARABS HAVE ADOPTED CLEAR AND RELATIVELY UNIFIED POSITIONS AND DEMONSTRATED FLEXIBILITY (BUT, IN WORDS OF MOUSSA, "THERE IS NO MORE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE IN ARAB POSITION).
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